

OFFICE OF ACQUISITIONS  
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER: N02CP21001-56

Amendment No.: 1

Date of Issuance: 05/01/2012

The above numbered Request For Proposal (RFP) is amended as set forth below. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offerors remains unchanged: 3:00 pm ET on May 22, 2012.

Offerors MUST acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and the date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by separate letter, telegram, or Electronic Mail which includes a reference to the RFP and Amendment number. For your convenience, the Proposal Intent Response Form is provided in SECTION J - List of Attachments of this RFP, for this purpose.

FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERORS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER.

This Amendment revises the RFP as stated below:

Questions and Responses to Offerors,

1. What is the anticipated level of effort for methodology development versus standard sample processing?

We do not expect this to be a significant effort for this work, rather implementation of best practices for the work that is described. We expect that the contractor will be familiar with the state of the art protocols, and so there will be little development work requested.

2. What were the types and number of new methods developed over the last year?

There were no new methods developed this year.

3. What standards have been used for method qualifications?

Standards are specific to any protocol and cannot be generalized. The contractor should have a quality control program for all activities.

4. In Attachment #3 (SOW), item #2 (Specimen Processing), it states "or functional assays". What other assays are specified?

While we are unsure of what types of assays may be used in the future, in the past year we have analyzed cytokines and chemokines using a Luminex assay using sera and plasma, we used peripheral blood mononuclear cells for lymphoproliferation, flow cytometry and cytokine studies, and used flowcytometry on bone marrow mononuclear cells.

5. Is the transfer of the government equipment automatic with the award?

All equipment that is needed will be transferred as a part of the transition plan for the start-up of the new contract. The offeror is advised to refer to Section M, Evaluation Criteria of this RFP as evaluation of the facilities and existing equipment is part of the evaluation of an offerors proposal. Equipment requirements will be addressed during negotiations and after review of the offerors proposal by the Technical Evaluation Panel.

6. Who assumes the cost of repair and maintenance of the government equipment?

The government is responsible for this unless an offeror includes the cost for repair in their proposal. Please refer to section M, Evaluation Criteria regarding the evaluation of existing facilities and equipment.

7. It states that the cost of sample transport will not rest with the Contractor (offerer). However, it appears that the Contractor is responsible for providing a messenger service. This is a little confusing. I assume that the offerer picks the service and NIH pays them?

The contractor arranges for the transport and includes the charges with their invoice to the government as a direct expense. An offerors proposal will be evaluated based on their proposed technical approach for providing transport of samples and the costs associated with those activities.

8. The level of effort listed in the proposal is based on 1960 hours per year. Our company is based on actual worked hours of 1650 per year. This would require FTE's of 3.25 versus the 2.75 referenced in the RFP. Is there room for negotiation in these hours if chosen for an award.

The hours provided in the RFP is the Governments estimate for this effort; however, the Technical Evaluation Panel will evaluate proposals against the Evaluation Criteria stated in Section M of the RFP. This evaluation includes a review of the technical plan and the offerors technical approach to meeting the requirements outlined in the Statement of Work (please see Page 80 of the RFP). If an offeror chooses to proposal fewer hours that what is stated in the RFP, their proposal should address how the requirements will be met.

9. Is the isolation of RNA from various biospecimen a requirement for this contract? If yes, what type of RNA (total RNA, microRNA etc.) and what biospecimen type would require processing?

Total RNA and microRNA might be requested at this time, but possibly new requirements might arise depending on the advancement of the findings in the literature.

10. Please confirm the number of reports for the following deliverables.

The recommended levels are what are requested. The RFP outlines the deliverables that are requested at this time (please refer to Section F, Deliverables, Pages 15 and 16).